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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson XIII.—First Quarter, For March 27, 1910.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Mark xvi, 1-8. Memory Verses, 6, 7—Golden Text, Rev. i, 18—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

Having the option of a review or a resurrection lesson, we choose the Easter lesson, as there is nothing so grand as His resurrection, by which He was declared to be the Son of God, with power and without which preaching and faith are vain and no one ever has been or can be saved. The resurrection, however, must include all of His earthly life that preceded His death. His life as the Son of Mary, the seed of David according to the flesh. Matt. 1 gives the royal line of David's descendants through Solomon to Joseph, who became the husband of Mary, while Luke III gives David's descendants through Nathan to Heil, whose son-in-law Joseph became by his marriage to Mary, and thus Jesus became heir to David's throne.

The quarter's lessons might be outlined as, first, the genealogy and birth of the King; second, the visit of the Magi and the flight of Joseph and Mary to Egypt and their return to Nazareth; third, the herald of the King and the declaration of the Father concerning Him; fourth, the King's victory over the great adversary. His testimony and the calling of some disciples; fifth to seventh, the laws of the kingdom; eighth and ninth, some samples of the nature of the kingdom.

Now, as the kingdom was postponed by the rejection and murder of the King we in this age must know the power of His resurrection if we would walk worthy of Him and manifest His life in these mortal bodies. The resurrection of the Messiah was plainly foretold in Ps. xvi and xxii, Isa. liii and elsewhere. It was wondrously foretold in Isaac being given back to Abraham from the dead in a figure (Heb. xi, 17-19). In His teaching the Lord Jesus Himself many times spoke plainly of His death and resurrection, and the great truth of Christianity is that we have at the right hand of the Father in heaven a risen living Christ, truly a Man and truly God, in whom alone is salvation, the only Judge of all mankind and the only One who can set up a kingdom of righteousness on the earth.

The most horrible thing that ever happened on this earth and that which shows the desperately wicked nature of the human heart was the cruel murder of the Son of God, but God raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory and will yet give Him dominion over all the earth, and His redeemed shall share the kingdom with Him.

His disciples never received His words that He was to be crucified and rise from the dead the third day (Matt. xx, 17-19), but some of His enemies remembered them (Matt. xxvii, 62, 63). His mother and some of the other women who ministered to Him remained by His cross to the last, and some of them after His body was buried returned and prepared spices and ointments and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment, intending on the first day to bring the spices and anoint His body (Luke xxiii, 55, 56; xxiv, 1). When they came to the tomb on the first day morning early they find the stone rolled away; they see an angel, who tells them that He is risen and that they must go quickly and tell His disciples. When Mary Magdalene saw the stone rolled away she ran to tell Peter and John, who ran to the sepulcher and saw for themselves and returned, but Mary remained near the sepulcher, weeping, till Jesus Himself, whom she thought at first to be the gardener, spoke to her and called her by name. When she and the other women told the disciples that He was risen from the dead they believed not, and some thought it an idle tale (verses 11, 13, 14; Luke xxiv, 11), giving Him occasion to upbraid them with their unbelief and hardness of heart. Many who now are told that the same Jesus is coming again think if an idle tale and believe not, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God and perhaps forgetting that Jesus said, "O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken" (Luke xxiv, 25). The angels believe and desire to look more fully into these things (verses 5-7; 1 Pet. 1, 12). Dr. Scofield gives in the margin of verse 6 this rendering: "Jesus ye seek—the Nazarene, the crucified. He arose. He is not here." He also gives in his notes on Mark xxviii the order of the events of that morning and also the order of the different appearances during those forty days. Note in verse 7 of our lesson how Peter is mentioned by name, the true disciple who had treated Him the worst, denying with oaths that he knew Him. How true it is that weakest lambs have largest share of this tender Shepherd's care! However weak and unworthy you may be, remember that "having loved His own He loved them unto the end" (John xiii, 1).

A mere knowledge of the facts of His life and death and resurrection will benefit us nothing unless, knowing these things, we truly receive Him as our own personal Saviour and place our whole trust as lost people in the efficacy of His great sacrifice. Then the joy of being redeemed will lead us to obey with gladness His command in verse 15, counting upon a fulfillment of verse 20. Our daily life will be "serving the living and true God" and our attitude "waiting for His Son from heaven" (1 Thess. 1, 9, 10).

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